

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: CHILE'S RELATIONS WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CHILE

REF: GENEVA 5815

1. SUMMARY. AT REQUEST OF CHILEAN AMB HUERTA, AMBASSADOR BENNETT AND LEONARD GARMENT (US REP ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC)) MET WITH CHILEAN AMBASSADORS HUERTA AND TRUCCO AND MIGUEL SCHWEITZER ON SPECIAL MISSION HERE FROM SANTIAGO TO HEAR CHILEAN VIEWS OF THE HRC WORKING GROUP'S PAST, PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDES. THEY VIEW THE HIGHLY POLITICIZED ATTITUDE OF THE WORKING GROUP AS THE KEY PROBLEM, THOUGH THEY SEE SOME RECENT POSITIVE SIGNS. THEY EXPRESSED AN INTENTION TO TRY AND CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE WORKING GROUP. THEY REFERRED TO THE OAS TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE AS A SATISFACTORY RESULT AND INDICATED THEY CONSIDERED CHILE IN A MUCH STRONGER POSITION THIS YEAR BEFORE THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAN IN YEARS PAST. US REPS STRESSED THE GROWING AWARENESS OF AND ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS BOTH IN THE UN AND US, URGED THE NEED FOR POSITIVE ACTION BY CHILE AND SUGGESTED THE ADVANTAGE TO CHILE IN
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OFFERING AN INVITATION TO THE WORKING GROUP TO COME TO

CHILE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 23 CHILEAN AMBASSADORS HUERTA AND TRUCCO, ALONG WITH MIGUEL SCHWEITZER OF SANTIAGO, PRESENTED THE CHILEAN POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTED ON RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE HRC AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CHILE. THEY COMPLAINED THAT MANY WORKING GROUP ACTIONS WERE CONSCIOUSLY PROVOCATIVE OF THE GOC. AS RECENT EXAMPLES, THEY CITED THE FAILURES OF THE HRC TO ADVISE THEM OF THE MEXICO CITY MEETINGS, THE TONE OF DOCUMENTS AND LETTERS EMANATING FROM THE WORKING GROUP (REFTEL) AND A JULY 2 MADRID PRESS RELEASE CONTAINING STATEMENTS OF TWO "MARXIST" LAWYERS WHO APPARENTLY HAD WORKED FOR THE WORKING GROUP.

3. SCHWEITZER AND TRUCCO CARRIED MOST OF THE DISCUSSION FOR THE GOC. THEY BOTH INSISTED THAT CHILE IS COLLABORATING AND WILL CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE WORKING GROUP, BUT THEY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE GROUP MAY BE SEEKING TO PUSH CHILE TO THE POINT THAT IT WOULD BREAK OFF CONTACT. THIS, THEY SAID, CHILE WAS DETERMINED TO AVOID. POINTING TO THE OAS MEETING IN SANTIAGO AND THE RESULTING REPORT AND RESOLUTION, TRUCCO INDICATED THE HOPE THAT THE FORMAT OF THE HRC REPORT WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THE OAS REPORT, I.E., CARRY BOTH THE CHARGES AND

ANSWERS. THEY BELIEVED THAT THE OAS ACTION, AS WELL AS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE, HAD SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENED THEIR CASE BEFORE THE UNGA. THEY DID SEE SOME SIGNS OF A MORE REASONABLE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE HRC AND WORKING GROUP, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO MARC SCHREIBER'S (DIRECTOR, UN HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION) SUGGESTIONS FOR A SHORTENED MEETING IN MEXICO AND THE FACT THAT NO PRESS STATEMENTS HAD SO FAR BEEN ISSUED FROM MEXICO.

4. BENNETT AND GARMENT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) THERE IS GROWING ATTENTION ON THE PART OF THE UN AND IN THE US TO HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WHICH CHILE WOULD DO WELL TO NOTE; B) ALTHOUGH THE OAS ACTION WOULD HELP THE CHILEAN CASE, THIS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TOO MUCH WEIGHT SINCE THE VOICE
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OF 22 LATIN GOVERNMENTS IS A MINORITY FORCE AT THE UN; C) THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY THE CHILEANS COULD PURSUE WOULD BE TO DEAL WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEM THROUGH CONCRETE ACTIONS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN CHILE AND THUS HELP THEIR FRIENDS TO HELP THEM; D) DESPITE THE PAST AND PRESENT PROBLEMS OF ATTITUDE OF THE WORKING GROUP, IT WOULD BE A SOUND MOVE FOR CHILE TO INVITE THE WORKING GROUP TO CHILE AND THUS REMOVE THAT ASPECT OF CRITICISM

OF CHILE.

5. THE CHILEANS MADE IT CLEAR THEY WERE NOT INCLINED TOWARD MAKING SUCH A UNILATERAL INVITATION TO THE WORKING GROUP, CERTAINLY NOT AT THIS TIME. SCHWEITZER TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE, I.E., INVITING TO CHILE SOMEONE WITH A WORLD REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY AND OBJECTIVITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON THE EXISTING CHARGES. HE APPEARED, HOWEVER, TO ACCEPT THE POINT THAT THE EXISTENCE OF A DULY CONSTITUTED UN BODY ALREADY EXAMINING THE SUBJECT WOULD DILUTE THE IMPACT OF ANY SUCH APPOINTMENT. TRUCCO, HUERTA AND SCHWEITZER PLAN TO MEET WITH THE NETHERLANDS PERMANENT MISSION IN NY TO EXPLAIN THEIR VIEWS, AND THEY HOPE THE DUTCH WILL SERVE AS SPOKESMAN FOR THEM WITH THE EC9. SCHWEITZER INDICATED HE WOULD REMAIN IN NY PROBABLY THROUGH MID-WEEK.

6. THE CHILEANS SAID THEY WERE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WORKING GROUP AND HRC. THEY WILL PROBABLY PREFER TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH LEOPOLDO BENITEZ (ECUADOR), HRC PRESIDENT, WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

BENNETT

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